Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. No claims have been amended.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-12, and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Tsuda et al. (US 6,629,090), hereafter "Tsuda." Claims 1, 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Lobley et al. (US 5,758,026), hereafter "Lobley." Claims 4, 5, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lobley in view of Kenyon (US 6,604,113), hereafter "Kenyon." These rejections are defective because the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a).

Regarding independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claims 10 and 16), Tsuda fails to disclose, among other features, at least one node configured to "**perform a calculation** based on values displayed by other nodes in the information visualization model." In particular, although Tsuda displays (see, e.g., FIG. 23) a regression tree diagram containing the results of a regression-tree-analysis, Tsuda does not teach (or even suggest) that the nodes of the regression tree diagram actually perform the

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calculations necessary to obtain the results, as claimed in the present invention. That is, the nodes in Tsuda's regression tree diagram are provided for result display purposes only (i.e., similar to the prior art hyperbolic tree 10 shown in FIG. 1 of the present patent application), and do not provide the calculation function provided by the present invention. Indeed, in the Final Office Action, the Examiner admits that a "calculation is performed based on the n values displayed by the child nodes and the result is displayed in the parent node. **The data-analyzing device of Tsuda calculates the data that is encompassed in the node.**" Final Office Action, page 2, Response to Arguments. Further, the Examiner asserts that a data-analyzing device (column 9, lines 17-45) performs a calculation "based on the n values displayed by the child nodes and **the result is displayed** in the parent node." Final Office Action, page 3. Clearly, in Tsuda, the nodes are used to display the results of calculations performed by a separate data-analyzing device.

Regarding independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claim 10), Lobley also fails to disclose, among other features, at least one node configured to "**perform a calculation** based on values displayed by other nodes in the information visualization model." In particular, although Lobley discloses the use of a hierarchical decision model (see, e.g., FIGS. 3-8), Lobley fails to teach or suggest that the nodes of the hierarchical decision model actually perform the calculations necessary to obtain the results, as claimed in the present invention. That is, the nodes in Lobley's hierarchical decision model do not provide the calculation function provided by the present invention.

Kenyon fails to remedy the deficiencies of either Tsuda or Lobley.

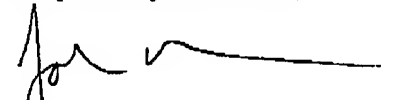10/712,625   7

With respect to dependent claims, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to independent claims from which the claims depend. Furthermore, Applicants submit that all dependent claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. Since the cited art does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Accordingly, since the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-20 are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/8/05

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